

DFP Newsletter: JULY 2019

Director Check-In

This “July” newsletter, which you might not get til August, is 2 months late because that summer DFP lull just didn’t happen. Jocelyn, our Facilitator, gets “most valuable DFP asset” designation: kept the ship sailing through a 2-month gap and search for a new DFP Admin while building steam on her own jobs. And – welcome to Zahra, our new DFP Admin!

On the CREATE front, student recruitment is strong; but we are eager to attract a few more to meet targets. We are seeing a healthy response to our request for Project partners – thanks and keep them coming.

DFP Salons: e@UBC is helping us redirect our Fall series to target what we most need. If there’s a topic on which you’d like to connect to people outside UBC, let us help you.

A place we haven’t seen as much activity as we’d like is on grant applications. Think about teaming up with someone – in DFP or outside – and ask for help.

At our 2nd annual Retreat (Kerry-era, seems a year ago!), the theme was *sustainability* – we’ve been very successful, but at a cost. Members strongly supported re-application this fall for the next round, and indicated which initiatives were most valuable. As calls come, please step up to help with the things you’ve said you cared about, so DFP can continue.

November GCRC re-application is fast approaching, when we say what we’ve done and what’s coming next. Talk to us.



Karon MacLean



FEATURED NEWS:

PROJECT STIMULUS
GRANTS UPDATE (P4/P5)

DFP RETREAT (P7)

WELCOME ZAHRA FALLAH,
DFP'S NEW ADMIN

NEW DFP FACULTY:
MATTHIAS GORGES (P2)



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Announcements & Things We Need From You

FOR EVERYONE

Welcome to [Zahra Fallah](#) our new Cluster Coordinator! Her email: dfp-admin@dfp.ubc.ca

DFP is now social! Click on the icons below and follow us:



FOR DFP FACULTY – contact dfp-facilitator@dfp.ubc.ca with questions or ideas.

Industry Partners Needed for CREATE PROJECT 2019/20.

Recruiting for the next CREATE student cohort has gone great; but this means we need more industry/community/etc partners! Consider your own connections; see recent email.

Renewing DFP Faculty Roles: Looking for a way to help out (and earn some DFP Service Units)? Consider joining the CREATE Management Committee, or inquire about other possibilities.

Project Stimulus Grant Call – see recent emails with our August call; and see pg. 4-5 for updates on the previous rounds!



Joining DFP as an Affiliate: Dr. Matthias Görges

As part of an inter-disciplinary team of engineers, computer scientists, and health care providers, Matthias is involved in a wide range of projects focusing on the development and application of new technology, primarily in the pediatric anesthesia and intensive care setting. His main goal is to extract clinically-useful information from vital signs and other clinical data, and to transform these data into information for better, more timely, and more efficient decision-making by clinicians. ([view Matthias' website](#))

May/June

May 1	DFP Design Showcase
May 14	DFPGrads UX Lab Tour
May 21	Downtown Salon #3
May 22	Sheelagh Carpendale
May 27	Jürgen Steimle
May 29	DFP Retreat
June 19	Maureen Stone

Coming Fall 2019

Sep 11	Garnet Hertz
Sep 25	Tek-jin Nam
Oct 9	Pascal Lavoie
Oct 23	Naz Virji-Babul
Nov 13	Jaimie Borisoff
Nov 27	Milena Radzikowska

[Subscribe to our calendar here](#)

Design Showcase: May 1, 2019

We had a great turnout at this year's Design Showcase: over 75 people attended from both academia and industry, with 18 posters and 11 demonstrations from UBC and SFU students.

2019 DFP Projects:

Provincial Health Services Authority
CompaReport
 Abdulai Abdul-Fatawu (Nursing)
 Billy Augustine(iSchool)
 Hanieh Shakeri (CS)
 Natalya Lebedeva (iSchool)

Tableau
Finding Vizzes on Tableau Server
 Ashish Chopra (CS)
 Steve Kasica (CS)
 Gustavo Tsay (Civil Eng)
 Limor Tamim (iSchool)

WeatherBug
Error Handling for Voice User Assistants
 Nick Hetherington (MECH)
 Anna Offenwanger (CS)
 Mohi Reza (CS)



Congratulations to **TEAM TABLEAU** for winning the DFP Student Project Award (\$1,000)!

[Watch the student Project Videos here](#)

[Watch our 2 min Highlight Reel of the Design Showcase here](#)

(by David Marino)

Project / Poster Awards:

Award Name	Criteria	Winner	Students
What Sorcery is This?	The most complete-looking "wizard of oz" demo	Browse Assist: A Novel way to browse files on your OS File System	Steve Kasica, Ashish Chopra, Patrick Boutet, Abdulai Abdul-Fatawu
Glitterbomb!	Best visual design of a poster	Lowering the burden for visualizing heterogenous and multidimensional data in healthcare	Anamaria Crisan
Well Said	Best science communication (project pitch)	Guiding Pace and Intonation of Speech in Adult ESL Learners Using Visual Scaffolds in a Pronunciation Training Tool	Mohi Reza
Unicorn	Most disciplines in a single project	Real Emotions Don't Stand Still: Classifying Emotion Trajectory from Neural Activity	Laura Cang, Paul Bucci, Laura Rodgers, Hailey Mah
K-Index	Your personal favourite	Browse Assist: A Novel way to browse files on your OS File System	Steve Kasica, Ashish Chopra, Patrick Boutet, Abdulai Abdul-Fatawu
Walking Catfish	The strangest application of theory in practice	Designing with Conductive Silicone	Paul Bucci, Hanieh Shakeri
Darth	The results most likely to be used for evil purposes	Designing with Conductive Silicone	Paul Bucci, Hanieh Shakeri



DFPGrads hosted a successful Summer School e-Portfolio Workshop Aug 6-7th

See next issue for more.
(photo credit: Hanieh Shakeri)

DFP Project Stimulus Fund – Update!

In an effort to support our faculty with their research needs, DFP created the Project Stimulus Fund. These funds are meant to help ‘stimulate’, or give a kick start to research that has stalled due to lack of funds, time, or both! These funds can be used to hire event organizers, research facilitators, transcribers, to book catering, and more! We are now accepting applications for our third round of Project Stimulus Funds.

If you have a research project on-hold due to lack of time or funds, contact dfp-facilitator@dfp.ubc.ca to see how DFP can help!

Round 1: Funds Awarded January 2018

Personal Health Records

Leanne Currie

Focused on designing technology interventions in primary healthcare, Leanne used her Project Stimulus Funds to hire a needs-map consultant, to run research workshops, and to facilitate writing a grant proposal.



Collaborative Service Robot for Care Environment

Mike Van der Loos

The CSR project has established a highly fruitful connection with a local eldercare facility and is conducting extensive user-centred design and evaluation studies.

Development of an Instrument for Measuring Intellectual Quality of Life in Academic institutions (iQoL)

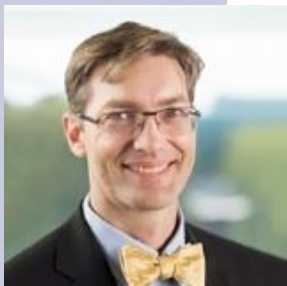
Liisa Holsti

Scholars once took walks in the woods to clear their minds and stimulate new ideas; inspired by this and her interest in work/life balance, Liisa and an interdisciplinary, inter-cluster team is developing a tool to measure iQoL. The VPRI office has expressed interest in this study in relation to measuring to Research Cluster outcomes.



DFP Project Stimulus Fund continued...

Round 2: Funds Awarded January 2019



Researcher Practitioner Partnerships for Educational Technology

Innovation: Eric Meyers

Goal: Develop a richer collaborative relationship between DFP faculty and local educators to mutually inform the design of new learning practices and technology-enhanced pedagogy. The PSF will support SWOT Sessions, Inspiration and Ideation Sessions, and Design Workshops. 17 educators from 10 different schools participated in first workshop, aligning current technology standards for K-12 students with post-secondary expectations. Responses to the follow-up survey were overwhelmingly positive. More workshops and a curriculum “hack-a-thon” to come.

Viz@UBC: Tamara Munzner

The level of engagement with the Viz@UBC initiative showed us just how many people are interested in visualization research, and how large this network will become. The DFP PSF helped support the whirlwind Viz@UBC kickoff, which included 4 stand-alone talks, a multispeaker event, and a mixer. This series created a vibrant, engaged network of viz researchers. The long-term goal is to help people “take it to the next level” in terms of engagement with visualization, whether that’s going from aspirations to something concrete, or escalating already-substantial efforts. [See the Viz@UBC webpage here](#)



Research in Virtual Reality (RIVR): Alan Kingstone

The goal of RIVR is to find ways to use VR as a research tool, rather than as an experience to be researched. The Project Stimulus Fund was used to facilitate a series of meetings and workshops in which members of Psych, CS, and Kinesiology exchanged knowledge and identified ways that VR can be used by multiple research teams. On May 6th, Dr. Cade McCall from York University (England) met with VR researchers at UBC and joined the discussion. Dr. Cade is now collaborating with Kinesiology & Psych faculty on Researcher. With this groundwork in place, Alan and colleagues plan to develop a generic software that can serve as a resource asset for multiple research teams.

CoPilot Training System Video Demonstration and Market Assessment:

Ian Mitchell

CoPilot is a hardware system which allows shared control of a powered wheelchair between user and a remote control. It includes a safe and naturalistic training program for new users.

Ian is using his PSF to film demonstrations of the CoPilot training system, and to develop and distribute a market survey on latent demand for this system. Therapists will watch the demo video to learn how CoPilot works, and will then provide feedback via the survey. Filming is now complete; finalized version should be finished by late June.



DFP Downtown Salons: Inaugural Series Complete!

The goal of the Downtown Salons is to raise awareness of DFP and the research we conduct, and to make connections with industry/community partners. Jocelyn was assigned project manager for this initiative.

We are fortunate to have such diverse and talented researchers in DFP – this makes coming up with event themes both challenging and rewarding! With our inaugural series we strove to capture topics that were meaningful both to our faculty and to industry and community partners. We selected themes on **health, inclusive technology, and education**.

Reaching a wide (and relevant) audience was one of our primary challenges. We therefore met with DFP advisors Elynn Lorimer (Spatial) and Barry Po (mCloud) to discuss communication strategies. As a result, DFP now has a [Meetup](#) page with 150 members, a [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) page, and a revived [Twitter](#) account. **Attendance increased substantially** (Salon 1 had 50 attendees, while Salon 3 had 80).

As designers, we know the importance of user (or attendee) feedback and of iteration, so we offered a prize draw for anyone who submitted suggestions (*see sidebar*). Prizes included new **DFP swag**!

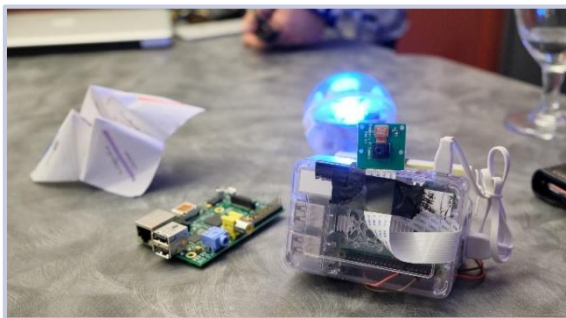
We managed to host **3 Salons in 3 months** (March 21st, April 25th, May 21st). Phew! The Salons were a success in terms of increasing DFP visibility, and certainly in terms of bringing a wide and diverse audience together. The fall plan, with e@UBC help, is to retarget this tool at specific objectives, with upgraded audience. Stay tuned!

Feedback:

- Breakout groups
- Wearable technology
- Bio-sensing technology
- Industry talks
- Interactive workshops
- Host an event at Microsoft
- Panels with multiple speakers

And of course...

- More drink tickets



Behind the Scenes

While the university may have slowed down over the summer, there is still lots going on behind the scenes at DFP ...

The really big ones...

- First round of CREATE Reporting
- Hiring and on-boarding a new Cluster Admin (*thanks Joc and Luanne; welcome, Zahra!*)
- Rebuilding the CREATE CORE instructional teams, post-postdoc (*goodbye, Sabrina!*) and reworking the Project partnership structure and timeline (*thanks Dongwook!*)

Not to mention...

- Fall Seminar Planning
- July Stimulus Project round
- Organizing finance management for our \$500K/year budget (*thanks CS Finance Mgr Marjan!*)

DFP Retreat Outcomes

DFP's annual retreat was May 29th at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The central topic: **Sustainability**.

How do we want to move forward as the Cluster enters its 3rd year, and what support systems do we need to put into place?



CREATE Overview:

- Summaries of developments in Core courses; mostly good
- Launch of new Professional Development modules (by Sabrina)
- Challenges: staffing; DFP Postdoc model not working (transience)

Prioritization: What parts of DFP are most valuable? What areas could we trim back?

- Seminars were a clear winner
- Downtown Salons have the potential to meet Translation, partner recruitment, relationship building, and visibility goals if given time to mature
- Stimulus funds: recipients were enthusiastic about the difference they made. However, not well advertised.
- Scale back the volume of events (2 per month?)
- Avoid starting new initiatives. Become experts at the initiatives we already do
- Reduce number of non-seminar meetings

Action Plan: What are our next objectives? How do we organize ourselves to support these objectives sustainably?

- Possibly reconfigure committees / management - streamline
- Redistribute the weight of hours invested to reduce weight placed on some
- Can DFP become an institute? A centre?
- Become the "it" place for Design in Vancouver
- Create roles and role descriptions for better clarification
- Most agreed that we don't want to shrink DFP – but we want to streamline it, and find more efficient ways of doing what we are already doing

